

President To Keep Gen. Haig

Major Shuffle In Cabinet Is Expected

8/15/74
By Lou Cannon

and David S. Broder

Washington Post Staff Writers

President Ford plans "significant changes" in his Cabinet before the end of this year but has asked Alexander M. Haig Jr., "to stay for the duration" as White House staff chief, it was disclosed last night.

Haig was brought in as staff chief more than a year ago following the resignation of H. R. (Bob) Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman as President Nixon's chief assistants. Haig played a major role in the events leading to the Nixon resignation last week.

Some Ford advisers urged the President to make a complete change in the top staff structure, but the President, whose relations with Haig have been excellent since he became Vice President, definitely decided to ask Haig, a former vice chief of staff of the Army, to stay.

Haig indicated his willingness to do so, despite the fatigue he has been showing in the wake of last week's presidential crisis.

It also was disclosed yesterday that Justice Department spokesman John W. Hushen is to become top assistant to White House press secretary J. F. terHorst.

A close associate involved in the transition planning said yesterday that more than half the present Cabinet members are likely to leave or be reassigned, with Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger the only one now firmly in his job for as long as he wants to stay.

Meanwhile Mr. Ford pondered the choice of a new Vice President. Ranking Republi-

cans on Capitol Hill were told the announcement may come today, but terHorst cautioned reporters that time diverted from Mr. Ford's schedule by the Cyprus crisis could delay the decision beyond his original weekend deadline.

The names of former New York Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller and Republican National Chairman George Bush led the guessing. Sen. Howard H. Baker Jr., (R-Tenn.) also had significant support on Capitol Hill and Gov. Daniel J. Evans (R) of Washington emerged as the choice of several governors.

But there was no authoritative word on the President's leanings.

Strong indications did come from the circle of advisers helping Mr. Ford arrange the transition from the Nixon ad-

SELECT, From A1

ministration that changes in top-level government jobs may be more widespread than were suggested by the new President's initial request that all Cabinet members and senior White House staff aides remain in their posts.

One of Mr. Ford's "kitchen cabinet" members said the President did "not want to abruptly put people out to pasture," but recognized that changes must be made "to make it clear it's a Ford administration."

Another member of that group underlined, however, that Mr. Ford was inclined to "rely far more on attrition than the shillelagh" in reshaping his Cabinet.

Suggesting that many of the Cabinet and staff members "who have been through the trauma with Richard Nixon will find that they are emotionally and physically spent" and want to resign, this adviser said the President "will

be extremely considerate and careful with them."

One man almost certain to be leaving, by several accounts, is Roy L. Ash, the director of the Office of Management and Budget. But changes are also possible in such other domestic departments as Justice, Agriculture, Labor, Interior, Health, Education and Welfare, Housing and Urban Development, Transportation and Commerce.

Secretary of the Interior Rogers C. B. Morton and Secretary of Housing and Urban

Development James T. Lynn are considered possibilities for new jobs in the Ford administration, but an authoritative source said yesterday that no personnel recommendations at that level have yet gone to the President.

terHorst said the four-man "transition team" recommending a new White House staff structure and personnel "hopes to be out of business in a week or two."

The coordinator of the

transition group is Donald Rumsfeld, a former Illinois congressman who is now the U.S. ambassador to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Its other members are ex-Gov. William W. Scranton of Pennsylvania, John O. Marsh Jr., a member of Mr. Ford's vice presidential staff, and Morton.

A Ford adviser said the President felt "deeply appreciative" of Haig's service, particularly in the troubled final days of the Nixon administration and in this transition period. He added that Mr. Ford "doesn't have any chief of staff ready to walk in and take over, so Haig is likely to stay on for some time."

There have been serious debates among the transition advisers over the desirability of designating a single chief of staff in the new White House structure.

Ford advisers reportedly will recommend to him that the overall size of the White House staff be reduced, with a significant diminution particu-

larly in such agencies as the Domestic Council. Mr. Ford himself has indicated he wants more face-to-face dealings with individual Cabinet members than Mr. Nixon solicited.

Several longtime Ford associates who have been working since last Wednesday as informal assistants on transition problems have told the Presi-

dent they prefer to remain outside the government, while making their personal advice available to him.

Included in this group are former Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird, now with the Reader's Digest; former White House counselor Bryce N. Harlow, now with Procter and Gamble; and John W. Byrnes,

the former Wisconsin congressman who is now practicing law in Washington.

Harlow, Byrnes and Scranton who indicated yesterday he might be available for an administration appointment, were among the members of a small group alerted by Mr. Ford's aide, Philip A. Buchen, last Wednesday evening to be-

gin planning for the new President's take over of the government. Others in the group were Robert P. Griffin (R-Mich.), Clay T. Whitehead, former head of the White House Office of Tele-Communications, and William F. Whyte, a Washington official of United States Steel and a longtime Ford friend.